5. RECOMMENDED HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The following are recommended strategies to guide future actions regarding Parks and Recreation's historic resources.

The strategies include two types of activities: 1) Parks operations and development activities, undertaken either internally or in coordination with other City departments, and 2) actions taken toward local or national landmark designation (sometimes called registration) and protection.

In reviewing potential historic resource management actions, the planning team, including an ad hoc advisory committee, noted that while some historic resource objectives are best furthered by formal designation, many historic resource goals can be addressed through more sensitive park improvement design and maintenance practices. Better appreciation of Parks and Recreation's historic resources is an important first step in this direction. While formal designation, especially at the local level, can build a greater appreciation through formal background research, review processes and legal protections, education of Parks staff and the general public is an important component of this historic resource management program.

A Note on Historic Designation. The Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Registration provides a broad overview of the importance and range of types of designation for historic resources:

"Registration of historic properties is the formal recognition of properties that have been evaluated as significant according to written criteria... A variety of benefits or forms of protection accrue to a registered property, ranging from honorific recognition to prohibition of demolition or alteration...

Registration results in an official inventory or list that serves an administrative function... Registers are used for planning, research and treatment [and] must contain adequate information for users to locate a property and understand its significance...

Some registration programs provide recognition and other broad benefits or entitlement, while other registration of properties may, in addition, authorize more specific forms of protection. The application of the registration process should be a logical outgrowth of the same planning goals and priorities that guided the identification and evaluation activities."

"Designation" in this document

Because the City of Seattle's local landmark designation carries with it greater benefits and is more relevant to local resource management activities, unless otherwise noted, the term "designation" shall refer to the City of Seattle's local landmark designation under the Landmark Preservation Ordinance, described below.

"An object, site or improvement which is more than twenty-five (25) years old may be designated for preservation as a landmark site or landmark if it has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, state, or nation, if it has integrity or the ability to convey its significance, and if it falls into one (1) of the following categories:

- A. It is the location of, or is associated in a significant way with, an historic event with a significant effect upon the community, City, state, or nation; or
- B. It is associated in a significant way with the life of a person important in the history of the City, state, or nation; or
- C. It is associated in a significant way with a significant aspect of the cultural, political, or economic heritage of the community, City, state or nation; or
- D. It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, or period, or of a method of construction; or
- E. It is an outstanding work of a designer or builder; or
- F. Because of its prominence of spatial location, contrasts of siting, age, or scale, it is an easily identifiable visual feature of its neighborhood or the City and contributes to the distinctive quality or identity of such neighborhood or the City."

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A Note on Historic Resource Management Actions. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards distinguish between four different types of treatments for historic properties, defined in the sidebar at right. Historic preservation planning, as described previously on page 7, may encompass all four types of treatment. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards includes specific guidelines for each type of treatment.

The distinction between the four types of treatments is particularly applicable for parks landscapes. For example, preservation might include special maintenance to preserve an historic planting, while restoration might entail removal of plantings that had been added in recent decades. A playground might be rehabilitated if its sports fields are reconfigured while retaining the original masonry gateway and historic perimeter plantings. Reconstruction could include the appropriate reinstallation of bollards on and replanting of a boulevard.

All of these treatment types should be considered when implementing the recommended strategies, especially strategies 1, 4, 8 and 9. For example, in establishing guidelines for the treatment of park resources in Strategy 4, it will be important to describe when each of the treatments may be appropriate and include more specific guidelines for applying the treatment.

A Note on Timing. To be most effective, the recommended strategies should be implemented in the order illustrated on the following page because some activities depend on the completion of others. For example, a preliminary inventory of existing resources is really necessary before Parks and Recreation can establish a multiple-resource district. Further explanation of each strategy follows the diagram.

Four types of Treatments for Historic Properties

Preservation – the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction.

Rehabilitation – the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

Restoration – the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period.

Reconstruction – the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.

 from Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Preservation Planning

Ongoing activity

funding to protect historic resources.

Strategy 1. Communicate Parks and Recreation's historic resource policies and practices with other City departments and interest groups. Parks and Recreation should initiate discussions with other City departments to recognize and protect historic resources within parks and boulevards. Parks and Recreation should coordinate with other City departments, such as the Department of Transportation (SDOT), the Department of Planning and Development (DPD), City Light, Public Utilities (SPU), and the Department of Neighborhoods, to ensure that public works projects do not compromise elements of historic resources. At the same time. Parks and Recreation should involve applicable parks advocacy, volunteers and user groups in these discussions. Goals of this effort are a better city-wide appreciation of the historic resources, sensitivity toward preservation objectives in related capital improvement projects, and interdepartmental cooperation in maintaining historic resources.

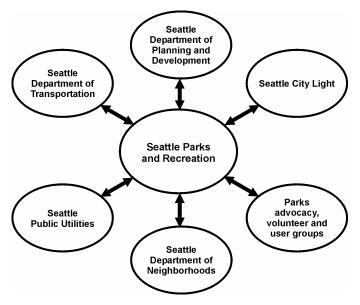


Figure 21: Coordinate historic resource management policies and practices with other key players.

Strategy 2. Conduct a preliminary inventory of historic and cultural resources. The purpose of this inventory is to identify those parks, boulevards, and park elements that may be eligible for local landmark or national register designation and to identify resources of potential historic significance that may be affected by Parks and Recreation's operational and development activities. Staff should consult with the City's Historic Preservation Office staff to ensure consistency of applicable methodologies and to combine efforts.

As part of this inventory, the team should identify a systematic methodology with criteria for classifying various resources and character-defining elements, and mapping and tabulation (database) methods. The methodology should insure that the inventory is consistent with the federal *Secretary of Interior Standards* and applicable resource management practices, is useful for designation and management purposes, and can be augmented over time.

It is not intended that this initial reconnaissance effort be extensive, with exhaustive field work or detailed research on individual elements. The work in this document can be a starting point. The end product will be a mapped listing of significant resources classified according to applicable groupings, such as Olmsted Brothers system elements and WPA structures, and relative significance.

The preliminary inventory should also identify those resources that clearly merit designation or preservation actions.

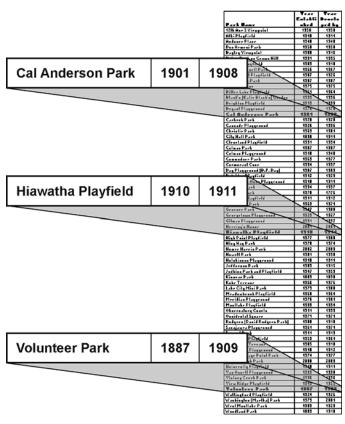


Figure 22: The preliminary inventory would identify resources that may be eligible for historic registration and other resources that should be considered as part of a potential multiple-resource designation or given special consideration in park development and maintenance decisions.

Strategy 3. Undertake designation of clearly eligible resources. Parks and Recreation, in conjunction with the City's Historic Preservation Office, should pursue the designation of individual resources that both agree merit local landmark designation.

Strategy 4. Establish guidelines for the treatment of Parks and Recreation historic resources. Based on the inventory in Strategy 2, determine best practices for Parks and Recreation resource management activities for both designated and undesignated resources. The guidelines should be tailored to meet Seattle's needs while being consistent with the Secretary of Interior Standards. The guidelines should include more specific direction for implementing the Secretary of Interior Standards guidelines for "preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction." (See page 69.)

Acknowledging that Seattle's parks are products of numerous changes and additions over time and that new uses and changes will occur, the guidelines should direct proposed modifications to historic park resources to be compatible with both the historic character of the physical resource and with the planning and design principles that the resource exemplifies.

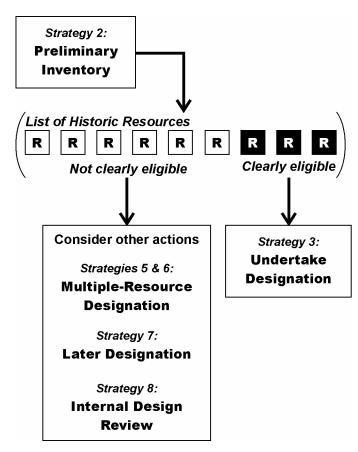


Figure 23: Using the list of historic resources gathered from the preliminary inventory, Seattle Parks and Recreation should work with the Historic Preservation Office to determine which individual resources are clearly eligible for local landmark designation.

Where new elements affect historic resources, they should be authentic or characteristic of the individual place rather than the period of influence. New structures should not create a false historicism by replicating a particular architectural style. However, guidelines should identify locational, site planning, scale, configuration, and other design characteristics that would make new elements less disruptive to the existing character and historical principles. For example, new structures added to an Olmsted Brothers-planned park should be relatively unobtrusive in location and design, as this was a design principle that the Olmsted Brothers followed in most cases.

The guidelines might cover, for example, the following:

- Vegetation replacement or renovation protocols
- Criteria for locating new uses or features in historic parks
- Maintenance of existing landscapes
- Priorities for the maintenance of buildings and structures
- Guidelines for locating and designing new elements in relevant parks

As part of this effort, Parks and Recreation should continue efforts to identify appropriate accessory structures for each period of influence and identify park features, furniture, lighting, and plant materials that are appropriate for parks of the various eras identified in this plan. In general, fixtures and plant materials appropriate to the era of a park's development should be used unless there is compelling reason to the contrary.

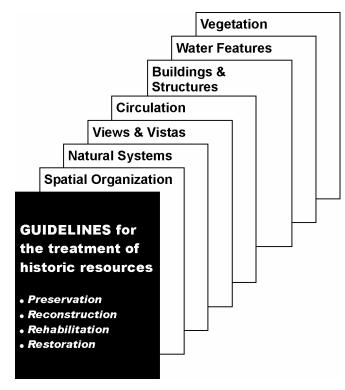


Figure 24: Parks and Recreation should establish guidelines for the treatment of historic resources.

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Strategy 5. Establish criteria and explore options for establishing multiple resource designations for appropriate categories of Parks and Recreation historic resources. A joint Parks and Recreation/Historic Preservation Office team should explore benefits and procedures for creating multiple-resource designations for historically-important elements, such as the system of Olmsted Brothers parks and boulevards and the WPA buildings and structures. The intent of these designations is to provide a more comprehensive body of research and consistent approach for protection of these resources. The multiple-resource designations should facilitate the designation of appropriate resources within them and provide procedures for reviewing proposed modifications.

The criteria should reflect both the Secretary of Interior Standards and Seattle landmark designation procedures, and the implications for Parks and Recreation activities should be carefully evaluated.

Strategy 6. Establish multiple resource designations for appropriate resource categories, such as Olmsted Brothers Plan parks and WPA buildings. Using the preliminary inventory in Strategy 2 and the criteria in Strategy 5, identify the limits of the proposed designations and character-defining elements. These designations would provide context for designating specific elements or parks within the larger categories.

Example of Multiple Resource Significance: Preliminary Statement of Significance for Seattle's Olmsted Park System

In the opinion of local Olmsted Brothers scholars Anne Knight and Jerry Arbes, "Seattle's Olmsted Park System represents one of the most intact and comprehensive park systems to be developed under the guidance of the Olmsted Brothers, the foremost landscape architects of their time... The Olmsted Park System was delineated in the 1903 and 1908 Olmsted Brothers reports. It included Seattle's earlier parks that the Olmsted Brothers proposed to link together with a system of parkways, new major park areas that they proposed to add to this network, and many smaller individual parks that they identified to serve local recreation needs within individual Seattle neighborhoods. All of these features now compose a network of parks that have successfully served Seattle residents and visitors during a century of urban growth and expansion. It is the vision of the quantity and the broad distribution of parks that exemplifies the foresight of the Olmsted Brothers. The Olmsted Brothers kept records on over 37 of these parks, some of which were extensively designed by the firm, other where the firm provided advice that directed the development of the park, and others where the park was recommended in the plan and then later implemented. These records serve to illustrate the foresight and vision of the Olmsted Brothers and their ability to anticipate what park lands would continue to be needed by Seattle a century later."

 from Seattle's Olmsted Park System – Proposed Landmark Designation Approach Strategy 7. Designate individual parks and/or elements within the multiple resource designations as opportunities arise. This may be done as part of any planning for capital improvement projects for the individual parks. The multiple-resource designation will facilitate this effort by establishing the context documentation.

Strategy 8. Ensure that internal design review processes for improvements to parks consider historically significant resources. The review process should prevent alterations that would detract from the park's planning intent and function within the park and boulevard system. Alterations to applicable parks should be consistent with characteristics identified in this plan and subsequent guidelines.

Strategy 9. Continue to train staff regarding historic resources and allocate resources for adequate maintenance. Parks and Recreation should continue its educational program to train staff in proper maintenance of historic structures and landscapes and should allocate resources to adequately maintain and enhance historic resources. Regular preventative maintenance of historic resources should be favored over a practice of deferring maintenance until capital funds are needed for expensive restoration or replacement.

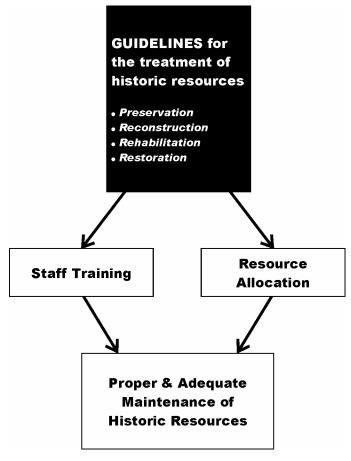


Figure 25: Continue to train staff and allocate resources for adequate maintenance.